Kyle Marks

Global Studies Honors P. 9/10

**Somalia**

A brief history:

The "Samaale," as Somalis were originally known, settled what’s known as Somalia today by 100 A.D. Early Muslims fleeing the Arab peninsula in the 7th century were granted refuge in Somalia, facilitating Somalia’s relatively peaceful path to Islam. Somalia gained independence in 1960, bringing in a decade of freedom and democracy. Sadly ending in 1969 by the Supreme Revolutionary Council, which banned political parties and triggered decades of war with Ethiopia, civil war at home, famine and fracture was also brought upon them. American and United Nations interventions in the early 1990s failed to mend Somalia’s conflicts. Somalia currently has a new president, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmad elected in 2009.

Natural resources:

- Livestock

- Bananas

- Hides

- Fish

- Charcoal

- Scrap metal

Population:

- (2009 est.): 9,832,017

- Birth rate: 43.7/1000

- In Mogadishu (capital), 1,208,800

- Life expectancy 51

- Literacy rate 38%

Ethnic groups/rivalries or tribal warfare:

-The Somali National Movement (SNM, Isaaq-affiliated)

-The SSDF (Majeerteen)

-The Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM, Ogaden)

-The Somali Democratic Alliance (SDA, Gadabursi)

-The Somali Democratic Movement (SDM, Rahanwayn)

Impact of diseases in your country:

- Pulmonary tuberculosis, malaria, infectious and parasitic diseases, schistosomiasis, tetanus, venereal disease, leprosy, and a variety of skin and eye ailments severely impaired the health of the Somali people, along with 1% of the total population that has HIV.

European nations that colonized your country:

- (Before 1920) 7th – 10th century Arabs, Persians had trading posts on the border of what it is today Somalia, Nomadic tribes occupied the interior. In the 16th century, Turkish rule extended to the northern coast, and Zanzibar gained control in the south. In 1839 the British took occupation of Aden. Next in 1862 the French established a coal-mining station at the site of Djibouti, while the Italians planted a settlement in Eritrea. Egypt, which claimed Turkish rights in the area for some time, was succeeded by Britain.

- (After 1920) At this time British and an Italian protectorate occupied what is now Somalia. After 1941 the British ruled the entire area. In 1950, Italy returns to serve as United Nations trustee for its former territory. In 1960, Britain and Italy granted independence to their sectors, letting the two join as the Republic of Somalia on July 1, 1960. Somalia then broke diplomatic relations with Britain in 1963 after the British granted the Somali populated Northern Frontier District of Kenya to the Republic of Kenya.

Type of government:

- Between Jan. 1991 and Aug. 2000, Somalia had no working government. From 2000 till 2003, an experimental government was established, but by the end of 2003 it was unable to take control of the country. In 2004, a transitional parliament was instated and a president was elected.

Problems that need to be addressed for the country to prosper:

Somalia is land broken by famine, disease and war. The United States is backing Ethiopian incursions into Somalia, and American warplanes have raided Somalia three times in 2007 alone, in attempts to keep al-Qaeda militias from taking hold in the country. Somalia’s long dispute with Ethiopia over the vast Ogaden (a 125,000 square mile region west of Somalia’s midsection) still continues today.

Solutions to problems:

If Somalia would be able to get better educational system then they could possibly increase their knowledge of diseases and how to cure them, also giving the opportunity for more job openings, creating a higher cash flow. This money could then be used for military reinforcement or expansion of farming, ending either war problems or the famine. To settle the land dispute with Ethiopia, I suggest splitting it evenly ending conflict between the two countries. Lastly getting the United States to end warplane raids and stop aid to Ethiopian incursions into Somali territory.

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